

TALKING POINTS FOR WHITE HOUSE SUMMIT ON MALARIA

Overview

- Defeating malaria is an urgent calling and an achievable goal.
- Malaria – a completely preventable and treatable disease – kills a child in Africa every 30 seconds. At least one million infants and children under five in sub-Saharan Africa die each year.
- We have eliminated malaria before – and with the help of people across the United States and around the world we can do it again.

History

- It's hard to believe now, but just a few generations ago malaria plagued the Southeastern United States. But after a sustained public effort, the United States was declared malaria free.
- In Panama, these same techniques were used last century during construction of the Panama Canal, and infection rates for workers dropped 80 percent in just two years.

Why Should We Help

- Malaria has an enormous economic impact. Malaria makes workers weak and fills hospitals. When individuals cannot work, economies suffer and impoverished nations are subject to conflict.

The President's Commitment - PMI

- Through the President's Malaria Initiative--which works with local governments, organizations and multilateral agencies--the United States has committed 1.2 billion dollars through 2008 in 15 countries.
- The goal is to cut malaria's mortality rate by half in the target countries, freeing these nations and their 175 million citizens from the grip of this debilitating disease.
 - Results: PMI has helped deliver bednets in Zanzibar in Tanzania where malaria is the leading cause of death. More than 230,000 people have been given insecticide treated bednets in recent years.
 - Zanzibar has seen a startling decrease in its malaria cases and quicker recovery for those infected.
 - Malaria cases dropped 87% in 5 major hospitals on Zanzibar Island.
 - The number of confirmed malaria cases on Pemba Island dropped 87% from January to September in 2006 to 1,570 down from 12,531 over the same period last year, according to local health reports.

The White House Summit on Malaria

- Though the President's commitment to fighting malaria is significant and is making an impact, we know no one organization or entity alone can help solve global health issues facing Africa.
- This "citizen's summit" will bring together international experts, corporations and foundations, African civic leaders, and faith-based organizations to raise awareness of the issue of malaria, and to mobilize a grassroots effort to save millions of lives in Africa.

- The Summit will announce:
 - Additional countries in Africa that will receive PMI funding.
 - Commitments made by organizations to dedicate additional resources to put thousands of new boots on the ground and to help eliminate malaria.

Malaria No More:

- Under the leadership of Ray Chambers, Malaria No More has taken the President's call to action to heart and is challenging America's private sector and individuals, especially young people, to save lives and build a bridge between peoples.
- Malaria No More aims to work with clubs or organizations to support their outreach and educational efforts, especially to young people.
- Malaria No More has the goal of raising enough funds that, when combined with other efforts, will provide a bednet to virtually every family in sub-Saharan Africa that needs one. And that people from corporate CEOs to a Girl Scout troop can make a difference.

Conclusion

- This summit's goal is to raise awareness of this horrible but preventable disease.
- This summit is a "call to action," marshalling and exhorting existing participants in the fight to new heights, and attracting millions of new entrants into this battle at the grassroots level.
- We have learned that no one government or group of governments, no one international agency or group of agencies, no one non-profit organization or group of organizations – and no one party – can solve these horrific problems acting alone.
- Our hope is that by working together, we can make malaria no more and give African children the gift of growing up.